ELECTRICAL SECRETARIAT

Directs that the Corporation of the City of Bangalore, the City and Town Municipalities and Village Panchayets should invariably consult the Electrical Department while granting Licenses for the construction of new buildings or improvement of the old ones, when such works are to be done in close vicinity of power lines.

OFFICIAL MEMORANDUM.

ORDER NO. E.D.S. 3047-146—ELECL. 13-51-178, DATED BANGALORE, THE 20TH OCTOBER 1952.

Recently a labourer, working on a building at No. 117-119, Dharmaraja Koil Street, Bangalore, came in contact with power primaries which are running only 2 feet away from the building and on account of consequential shock received by him he dropped down from a height of about 25 feet and died of injuries. The accident is due to the callous indifference with which the contractor got the ignorant labourer to undertake the hazardous work in close proximity to the live electric lines without arranging for adequate protection against the preventable accidents like the one under reference.

When the matter was referred to the authorities of the Corporation of Bangalore as to why the Electrical Department was not intimated of the construction of the building in close proximity to the electric lines, it was stated that it has not been the practice of the erstwhile Municipality to consult the Electrical Department when the lines are near the proposed buildings and that the discretion of the Corporation in the matter of granting licenses to construct or re-construct buildings is limited by the provisions under Section 248 of the Corporation Act and that the Corporation cannot legally withhold the grant of license if the plans are otherwise in order.

Government are constrained to observe that such fatal accidents should occur when they could have been avoided with proper care and vigilence and therefore direct that in the interest of the safety for the lives of the people the Corporation of the City of Bangalore, the City and Town Municipalities and Village Panchayets should invariably consult the Electrical Department while granting licenses for the construction of new buildings or improvement of the old ones, when such works are to be done in close vicinity of power lines to avoid accidents due to the workmen coming in contact with live wires.

K. S. GANGADHARA,
Secretary to Government,
Electrical Department.

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